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TOM CHABIN  
DISTRICT 2

April 9, 2008

Bernadette McGuire-Rivera  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications  
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Room 4812  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Docket Number 090309298-9299-01

Dear Ms. McGuire-Rivera:

On behalf of my constituents, many who live in the Navajo Nation in Arizona, I write today to encourage the National Telecommunications & Information Administration to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to bring advanced telecommunications services to currently unserved Native American populations in Arizona and elsewhere.

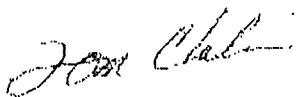
Some nine million homes nationwide, most of which are in remote rural communities, have no options for subscribing to broadband service. As a result, Native communities are denied resources for information, business and public safety. ARRA funds can be used in a variety of ways to begin bridging this inequity.

Infrastructure builds of any kind – from wireline to terrestrial wireless to next-generation satellite and emerging mobile technologies – will instantly give our communities access to the economic and social benefits of high-speed access. Promoting computer ownership (through hardware donation) and tech literacy (through training programs) will encourage rural residents to sign on and discover the programs and applications that will be most useful to them, be they news, entertainment, job skills, e-learning, e-health, or any number of others – all of which will lead to sustainable economic growth.

Technology is paving the way for our next generation of citizens and it is imperative that we deliver the services they need. Rural businesses will stand to benefit significantly from high-speed Internet as they seek to streamline their business services, expand their customer base and find new and more competitive vendors. New communications technologies can improve public safety and guarantee that the rural communities are not at undue risk during crises. With the many advances in this technological age, it is a valuable goal to ensure that all Americans have access to the resources that are available.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



State Representative Tom Chabin  
District 2  
[tchabin@azleg.gov](mailto:tchabin@azleg.gov)

Committees:  
Ways & Means, Ranking Democrat  
Government